

# INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TRANSPORTATION FUNDING EQUALITY ACT

## HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the District of Columbia Transportation Funding Equality Act. This bill would make the District of Columbia eligible for two federal programs that support the development and revitalization of public transportation systems in the same manner that states are currently eligible for these programs. D.C. residents pay the same federal taxes as residents of the states, and D.C. should be treated as a state in federal programs.

First, the bill would treat D.C. as a state in the High-Density States Formula for certain grants from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund. Currently, only states are eligible for these grants. Second, the bill would treat D.C. as a state under the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities program. Currently, each state is authorized to receive \$1.75 million annually and each of D.C. and the territories are authorized to receive \$500,000 annually.

The programs in the bill fund the modernization of bus and rail fleets, the purchase of zero-emission transit vehicles, the improvement of station accessibility for all users and the extension of transit service to new communities. They especially benefit communities of color, since these households are twice as likely to use public transportation.

The House-passed surface transportation reauthorization act, the INVEST in America Act, would have made D.C. eligible for these two programs in the same manner as states. Unfortunately, the enacted surface transportation reauthorization act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which the Senate wrote, did not.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to provide funding for effective, efficient and sustainable transportation options for D.C. in same manner as states.

# CONGRATULATING SETON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM FOR WINNING THE WASHINGTON STATE 1A CHAMPIONSHIP

## HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Seton Catholic High School girls cross country team for winning the Washington state 1A championship. While the COVID-19 pandemic caused significant disruptions to the team's 2020 and 2021 season, the team retained its competitive edge through the challenges they faced. Winning the first state championship in school history is evidence that their perseverance has paid off!

Each member of the team contributed to their team's success at the state tournament. Alexis Leone, Lara Carrion, Avery Garrison,

Sara Cordova, Virginia Carrion, and Addison Miller can all be proud of this tremendous accomplishment and cherish the memories they have made for the rest of their lives. Go Cougars.

# HONORING THE LIFE OF DETECTIVE MANUEL CHRISTOPHER "CHRIS" WIDNER

## HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Detective Manuel Christopher "Chris" Widner who passed away on August 22nd of 2021. Chris passed due to COVID-19 complications at the young age of 47. He leaves behind, in the safe keeping of God, his beautiful wife, son, and two step-daughters.

Det. Widner lived a life dedicated to the service of his family and his community. After high school, Chris started his career as a servant to the people at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). Holding on to his dream to be a police officer, after 15 years with TDCJ Chris found an opportunity to serve as a local police officer. For his last 11 years, Chris served as a sworn officer of the peace for the people of Paris, Texas. Not since 1985 has the Paris Police Department had an officer fall in the line of duty, he will be greatly missed. Chris loved the Lord and knew God as a friend in this life. I am sure, through faith, that Det. Widner has heard the words "Well done thy good and faithful servant."

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize Det. Widner's devotion to God, Country, family, and his community. Furthermore, Madam Speaker, I extend my personal condolences to the family and friends of Det. Widner.

# HONORING AMBASSADOR YURI KIM

## HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated career diplomat who has devoted her life to public service, Ambassador Yuri Kim.

I first met Ambassador Kim years ago when we worked together on Iraq policy. Like so many others around the world who have worked alongside her, my initial thought was one of gratitude for her contributions to our team. Ambassador Kim is a thoughtful, compassionate, and committed diplomat who can masterfully leverage her deep knowledge and her magnetic charisma to the task at hand. It's no surprise that Ambassador Kim was confirmed to her position by voice vote in the U.S. Senate—she's one of the best that our country has to offer and I'm proud to call her a friend.

In August, when dire circumstances required us to scramble and reach out to potential countries that could host our group of Afghan evacuees, Ambassador Kim jumped into the breach. Our team called the embassy in

Tirana and she personally returned our call—setting in motion a chain of events that led to more than 100 lives being saved. That we were able to cross paths in the way that we did is a testament to the power of relationships and how they can change the course of history.

All leadership starts at the top, and our embassy staff in Tirana is a powerful example of putting country over self in order to complete a mission. They are truly learning from the best, in the same way that Ambassador Kim learned from the best as a special assistant to the late Colin Powell. There are no words to express the relief and the joy that I felt after that initial call with Ambassador Kim. I—and my entire team—are forever in her debt.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Ambassador Yuri Kim for her willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For her efforts to marshal the resources and personnel of our Embassy in Tirana and for her quick and efficient actions that undoubtedly saved lives in their hour of greatest need, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to her dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

# RECOGNIZING TRI-VALLEY HAVEN VOLUNTEERS

## HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021*

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the work of Claire Nelson and Emily Stahl, two remarkable volunteers of Tri-Valley Haven, a domestic violence shelter that creates homes safe from abuse and contributes to a more peaceful community one family at a time.

Claire Nelson, one of the founders of Tri-Valley Haven, led an amazing group of formidable women. Claire was invested in working to help women and children after her years of professional experience in the day care field. She even went as far as to take survivors into her own home until Tri-Valley Haven was able to purchase a six-bedroom shelter. Claire took pride in building Tri-Valley Haven up from behind the scenes and served on the organization's board of directors, as their treasurer, and as president.

Emily Stahl was the shelter's children's counselor who approached each child as a unique young person with dreams and ideas of their own. She worked with parents, schools, civic groups and community partners to advocate for the kids at Shiloh Shelter. Her understanding of the work was incredibly broad and infused with kindness, genius, and good humor.

Tri-Valley Haven, like many organizations in recent years, experienced ups and downs with funding and staffing; through it all, Claire and Emily continued to ensure a safe place for survivors and their families. They're part of the reason I'm honored to represent California's 15th Congressional District.

I thank Claire and Emily for their vision and dedication to providing domestic survivors safe harbor when they need it most.